



Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University July 10-14, 2017

Vice-Chancellor Tasks Workshop Participants on Cassava Supply Challenge



Representative of the Vice-Chancellor the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, making his remarks and declaring the workshop open

Stakeholders in the agricultural industry and participants at the first Cassava Virus and Clean Seed Awareness Training Workshop at Covenant University, have been urged to find a solution to the problem of supply not meeting the demand for cassava in Nigeria.

The Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor AAA. Atayero, represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Shalom Chinedu, set this task on Tuesday, July 4, 2017, at the opening ceremony

of the workshop organised by the West African Virus Epidemiology (WAVE) for root and tuber crops project, Covenant University hub.

The workshop, said the Vice-Chancellor, was critical and could not have come at a better time, especially in a season where many Africans are ravaged by hunger. According to him, in Sub-Saharan Africa, where hunger is prevalent, one out of every three children is malnourished as many Africans live below poverty level.

"Cassava is one of the most dependable crops for the African people. Nigeria is reputed to be the

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Carnegie Fellow Advised Students to Plan for Future

In an effort to give back to the society, a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow to Covenant University, Dr. Efosa Idemudia, has advised secondary school students to plan for the future by developing themselves educationally, technologically and politically.

Dr. Idemudia gave the advice when he visited some selected public and private secondary schools in Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government Area of Ogun State,

penultimate Tuesday, in order to motivate the students to be good citizens of the country and make monetary donations for the uplifting of the schools.

Idemudia, who is also an Associate Professor of Management and Marketing at Arkansas Tech University, USA, charged the young ones to take their education very seriously and ensure they graduate with flying colours, noting that there are various scholarships available to them to further their studies both at home and abroad. "When you are educated, no one will be able to

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Carnegie Fellow, Dr Efosa Idemudia, addressing Faith Academy students

Covenant University Set for 12th Convocation Ceremony

Covenant University will be holding its 12th Convocation Ceremony on Friday, July 21, 2017, in the University's Chapel at Canaan Land, Ota, Ogun State.

Tagged 'The Release of Eagles', the convocation ceremony will be honouring graduands across all academic programmes. The graduands of Covenant will have the opportunity to be recognized for their achievements in front of the University's Board of Regents, Management, the Senate, honoured guests, professors, Covenant staff, family members, and the media.

Activities lined up for this year's ceremony will kick off on Wednesday, July 19 with a Special Convocation Assembly, a Hooding Event for the School of Postgraduate Studies and a Special Convocation Service.

A Convocation Lecture with the topic, 'Research Innovation: Panacea to Africa's Economic Underdevelopment', will flag off

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Thursday's programmes with Professor Julius Okojie, the immediate past Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, as the Convocation Lecturer. An exhibition of innovative products, Hooding Events for Colleges follow in quick succession, while a Special Gospel Concert/Variety Night wraps up the day.

Friday's convocation ceremony, scheduled to hold between 9am and 12.30 am, will feature a Keynote Address with the topic, 'Leadership by Products: the Role of

Universities', to be delivered by Ms Cecilia Akintomide, former Vice-President and Secretary General of the African Development Bank.

The Keynote Address precedes the award of First and Higher Degrees and Presentation of Special Awards and Prizes.

Covenant University has since inception been releasing new generations of leaders, raised through a qualitative and life-applicable training system that focuses on value and skill development. ■

Vice-Chancellor Tasks Workshop Participants on Cassava Supply Challenge

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biggest producer of cassava, that's why it's important that we guard this crop because if anything happens to it, it will spell doom," said Professor Atayero, adding that efforts must also be made to arrest the soaring cost of cassava.

Identifying diseases as another problem of cassava, the Vice-Chancellor, who acknowledged that the activities of WAVE are very important, said that the essence of the workshop was to bring together researchers and the growers as well as the end users of cassava. "I believe that at the end of the workshop, we'll find a solution to the problem of supply not meeting the demand for cassava," he enthused as he declared the workshop open.

Making his presentation at the event, the Keynote Speaker, Pastor Segun Adewumi, who is the President, Nigeria Cassava Growers Association (NCGA), described Covenant University as one of the most prestigious universities in the world. He said that cassava as a wonderful crop that produces over 20 local food types and an industrial produce for

ethanol and industrial starch among others, can trigger a massive agro-industrial revolution in Nigeria.

Cassava, he said, is the only product for which the entire world concedes the leadership of its production to Nigeria and one of its by-products, industrial starch, has the potential to generate N15 trillion additional income for the country and full employment for five million people.

Pastor Adewumi appealed to the Chancellor and Chairman Board of Regents, Covenant University, Dr. David. O. Oyedepo, to ignite cassava revolution in Nigeria by making a big investment in its cultivation in line with his reputation for turning things around for the better.

Earlier in her welcome remarks, the Team Leader, West African Virus Epidemiology (WAVE), Covenant University hub, Dr. Angela Eni, appreciated participants for turning up for the programme. The workshop, she stated, was crucial given the place of cassava in Africa as over 800 million Africans depend on cassava for food.

Dr. Eni, who said that everybody was pushing beyond the limits into cassava research,

Carnegie Fellow Advised Students to Plan for Future

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enslave you," he added.

He also emphasised the need to be technologically savvy, which he said, would enable them achieve much more in their chosen profession and have wide connection to the world. "Through technology, you can gather data which will help you take informed decisions," he opined.

Dr. Idemudia also encouraged the students to go into politics when they graduate from school. This, he said, would afford them the opportunity to be part of decision makers to bring about the desired change the country needed. One of the major problems of the country, according to him, is leadership and the country is in need of new breed leaders which he advised them to be.

The Carnegie Fellow was accompanied by members of the University Community Development Impact Initiative Committee, led by its Chairman, Dr. Michael Agarana, Mrs. Ronke Asaolu, Mr. Ayo Ajayi and Mrs. Folashade Oluwatobi. They visited Faith Academy, Canaan Land, Ota; Iganmode Grammar School, Ota; St. Michael High School, Ota and Scholars Universal Schools, Ota. ■

however noted that cassava growing has constraints, with the virus being one of them. A policy paper, she added, must emerge out of the workshop.

Other distinguished guests at the event were the Head, Department of Biological Sciences, Covenant University, Professor Adesola Ajayi; Leader, Biotechnology Research Cluster of the University, Professor Louis Egwari; Deputy Director, Media and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Emmanuel Igban; Executive Committee members of the NCGA; Programme Managers of Agricultural Programmes; and participants from 12 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). ■